

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 /095 W
-----076815 221255Z /64

R 220800Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8669
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2163

E.O. 11602: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, CN, TZ
SUBJECT: TANGOV VIEW ON COMOROS COUP

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED COMOROS COUP MAY 19 WITH FORNMIN AFRICA
AND MIDDLE EAST DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR PETER POLANGYO.

ACCORDING TO POLANGYO, TANGOV HAD FOUND ITS ASSOCIATION WITH

SOILIH'S REGIME INCREASINGLY EMBARRASSING AND HAD BEEN PREPARING
TO BRING HOME ITS PERSONNEL THERE. TANGOV WAS UPSET WITH
DEVASTATING SPEED WITH WHICH SOILIH HAD CHANGED COMOROS SOCIETY,
ESPECIALLY IN LAND CONTROL. EVEN MORE UPSETTING WERE SOILIH'S
CONSPICUOUS INDULGENCES IN LUXURIES IN THE MIDST OF POVERTY.

2. POLANGYO SAID TANGOV PERSONNEL WHO HAD BEEN SENT TO AID
COMOROS (IN ADMINISTRATION, RADIO BROADCASTING) WOULD NOW
DEFINITELY BE BROUGHT HOME. HE WAS PLEASED THAT THEY HAD
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STAYED OUT OF THE WAY DURING THE COUP AND HAD AVOIDED ANY
INVOLVEMENT WHATSOEVER. POLANGYO SAID TANGOV HAD VERY LITTLE
KNOWLEDGE OF POST-COUP COMOROS BUT SAID HE DOUBTED THAT IDEOLOGY
OF NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM PREVIOUS ONE.

3. COMMENT. TANGOV-CONTROLLED MEDIA HAS NOT COMMENTED ON
THE COMOROS COUP, A GOOD SIGN THAT TANGOV DOES NOT YET KNOW

WHAT TO MAKE OF IT. TANGOV HAD HOPES THAT THE TANZANIAN MODEL OF SOCIALISM WOULD BE CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY SOILIH, BUT HE TURNED OUT TO BE THE WRONG MAN. COMOROS ARE NOW RUN BY PEOPLE WHOSE IDENTITIES AND PLANS ARE A LARGELY UNKNOWN TO TANGOV. TO TANGOV COMOROS EPISODE PROBABLY ADDS UP TO A FRUSTRATINGLY POOR INVESTMENT IN INFLUENCE-BUILDING IN THE WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN. WALKER

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Message Attributes

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